

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 SS-15
SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 /061 W
-----062919 150451Z /15

P R 150155Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9361

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10578

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, CH, JA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: JAPANESE INTEREST IN POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PAN AMERICAN BOARD CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO CHINA

1. SUMMARY: IN HEADLINE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED TO "INFLUENTIAL
AVIATION SOURCES OF JAPAN AND THE U.S.", JULY 13 NIHON
KEIZAI DESCRIBES PAN AM BOARD CHAIRMAN'S CURRENT VISIT
TO CHINA AS ONE FURTHER STEP TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF
US-PRC RELATIONS, PRESAGING NEGOTIATIONS FOR CONCLUSION
OF A US-CHINA AIR AGREEMENT. ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT,
OWING TO FACT CHAIRMAN SEAWELL "IS SLATED TO HAVE TALKS
WITH" AMB MANSFIELD ON HIS WAY HOME JULY 19, SEAWELL'S
VISIT WAS OBVIOUSLY "FULLY DISCUSSED WITH THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED IN ADVANCE." MOFA HAS
QUERIED EMBASSY AS TO POLITICAL MEANING OF SEAWELL'S
TRIP AND WE HAVE INDICATED THAT TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE
IT IS SOLELY A PRIVATE BUSINESS TRIP UNDERTAKEN TO
PROMOTE PAA'S LONG-RANGE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.
PER REQUEST OF LOCAL PAA OFFICE, SEAWELL HAS BEEN
SCHEDULED TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR
JULY 19. END SUMMARY.

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2. FRONT PAGE HEADLINE ARTICLE OF EVENING JULY 13
NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, ATTRIBUTED TO "INFLUENTIAL
AVIATION SOURCES OF JAPAN AND THE US", DEALS
WITH CURRENT VISIT OF PAN AM BOARD CHAIRMAN SEAWELL
TO CHINA. ARTICLE STATES THAT SEAWELL, ACCOMPANIED
BY PAA VP'S LEET AND WALTRIP AND A "JAPANESE WHO

IS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL", WILL HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH CAAC DIR GEN LIU ON US-CHINA AVIATION RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY OVERFLIGHTS BY 747 SP'S ON ROUND-THE-WORLD ROUTES. ARTICLE DESCRIBES THESE CONSULTATIONS AS TAKING PLACE IN THE MIDST OF ACCELERATED USG MOVEMENT TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND AS PRESAGING NEGOTIATIONS FOR CONCLUSION OF A US-CHINA AGREEMENT. REPORTER ALSO SPECULATES THAT SEAWELL AND HIS PARTY MAY EVEN MEET WITH CHAIRMAN HUA.

3. STORY CONCLUDES WITH PARAGRAPH NOTING THAT SINCE SEAWELL IS SCHEDULED TO "HAVE TALKS" WITH AMB MANSFIELD ON JULY 19 ON HIS WAY HOME IT APPEARS OBVIOUS THAT HIS VISIT WAS "FULLY DISCUSSED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED IN ADVANCE."

4. MOFA CHINA DIVISION HAS QUERIED THE EMBASSY IN LOW KEY MANNER AS TO THE POLITICAL MEANING OF SEAWELL'S TRIP. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE IT IS SOLELY A PRIVATE BUSINESS TRIP UNDERTAKEN TO PROMOTE PAA'S LONG-RANGE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE PLAN RESPOND IN SAME MANNER TO ANY OTHER INQUIRIES.
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5. COMMENT: PAN AM CHAIRMAN IS SCHEDULED TO PAY A COURTESY CALL JULY 19 ON THE AMBASSADOR, WITH WHOM HE IS ALREADY ACQUAINTED; APPOINTMENT WAS MADE BY PAA REGIONAL MANAGER CLARK IN MID-JUNE WHEN HE LEARNED OF SEAWELL'S TRIP. PAA LOCAL OFFICE HAS IDENTIFIED "JAPANESE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL" AS MR. OHKAGAWA FROM SEAWELL'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK WHO NORMALLY GREETES ARRIVING UN DIGNITARIES. JAPANESE "AVIATION SOURCE" OF ARTICLE MAY BE JAPAN AIR LINES AS SEAWELL WILL FLY JAL FROM PEKING TO TOKYO JULY 18.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND USLO AND DEPT CAN PROVIDE FOR US TO PASS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TO GUIDE US IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SEAWELL.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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